GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2586
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
SAARC SUMMIT
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special session of standing committee of foreign secretaries of SAARC nations ended on August 10, 2001 without reaching any decision on the next summit;

(b) if so, the reasons for not reaching any agreement;

(c) whether Nepal`s suggestion to hold the 11th summit in Kathmandu from December 28 to December 30, 2001 had not been endorsed by the Committee; and

(d) if so, the time by which the schedule of the next summit is likely to be finalised?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) The Third Special Session of the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries of SAARC nations was held in Colombo on 9th and 10th August, 2001. Nepal as host to the next SAARC Summit had proposed the dates of December 28, 29, 30, 2001 for the 11th Summit to be held in Kathmandu. The Standing Committee members agreed to consult with their respective governments on the proposal.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The Committee agreed to carry out consultations to seek the convenience of all member Heads of State/Government to finalize the dates for the next Summit.

(d) After these consultations, the dates for the 11th SAARC Summit have now been set for 4, 5, & 6 January, 2002.